

In the specification:

Page 13, second paragraph, in lines 13-14 amend as follows:

The particles of the first group and the second group can be for example beads, granules, [fibers,] etc.

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 15 and 16 as follows:

Example 1

In order to produce polymer particles of the first group, into a seven-liter four-necked round-bottom flask equipped with a stirrer, a thermometer and a reflux condenser, is placed the solution of 8.4 g polyvinyl alcohol-type technical grade emulsion stabilizer Aervol 523, 40 g of sodium chloride, and 150 mg of sodium nitrite in four liters of deionized water (aqueous phase). The solution of 260 ml divinylbenzene, 140 ml ethylvinylbenzene, 20 ml of vinylbenzylchloride, 500 ml n-octane and 2.94 g benzoyl peroxide (organic phase) is then added to the aqueous phase on stirring at room temperature and the aqueous phase was adjusted to a pH value between 4 and 6. In 20 min, the temperature is raised to 80 °C. The reaction is carried out at 80 °C

for 12 hours. In this way free chloromethyl groups were introduced onto the surface of the porous hydrophobic core of polymer beads. After accomplishing the copolymerization, the stabilizer is rigorously washed out with hot water (60 to 80°C) and the above organic solvents are removed by steam distillation. The beads obtained are filtered, washed with 1000 ml isopropyl alcohol and with deionized water. The polymer is then suspended in three liters of deionized water and supplied at 40 °C with 10 g ammonium persulfate, 10 ml tetramethyl ethylenediamine and finally 8 ml vinylpyrrolidone. After applying the hemocompatible polyvinylpyrrolidone coating on the surface of the beads, the material was heated and stirred with a 5% solution of diethanolamine. Substitution of surface exposed chloromethyl groups for positively charged diethanolamine groups was achieved in this additional step. The polymer filtered and washed with depyrogenated water. The polymer displayed apparent inner surface area of 300 sq.m/g, total pore volume of 0.85 ml/g, and mean pore diameter of 35 nm.

Cancel paragraph bridges pages 17 and 18 from line 9 on page 17 to line 2 on page 18 inclusive.

Amended specification:

Page 13, second paragraph, in lines 13-14 amended:

C1

The particles of the first group and the second group can be for example beads, granules, etc.

Amended paragraph bridging pages 15 and 16:

Example 1

C2

In order to produce polymer particles of the first group, into a seven-liter four-necked round-bottom flask equipped with a stirrer, a thermometer and a reflux condenser, is placed the solution of 8.4 g polyvinyl alcohol-type technical grade emulsion stabilizer Aervol 523, 40 g of sodium chloride, and 150 mg of sodium nitrite in four liters of deionized water (aqueous phase). The solution of 260 ml divinylbenzene, 140 ml ethylvinylbenzene, 20 ml of vinylbenzylchloride, 500 ml n-octane and 2.94 g benzoyl peroxide (organic phase) is then added to the aqueous phase on stirring at room temperature and that the aqueous phase was adjusted to a pH value between 4 and 6. In 20 min, the temperature is raised to 80 °C. The reaction is carried out at 80 °C for 12 hours. In this way free chloromethyl groups were introduced

onto the surface of the porous hydrophobic core of polymer beads. After accomplishing the copolymerization, the stabilizer is rigorously washed out with hot water (60 to 80 °C) and the above organic solvents are removed by steam distillation. The beads obtained are filtered, washed with 1000 ml isopropyl alcohol and with deionized water. The polymer is then suspended in three liters of deionized water and supplied at 40 °C with 10 g ammonium persulfate, 10 ml tetramethyl ethylenediamine and finally 8 ml vinylpyrrolidone. After applying the hemocompatible polyvinylpyrrolidone coating on the surface of the beads, the material was heated with a 5% solution of diethanolamine. Substitution of surface exposed chloromethyl groups for positively charged diethanolamine groups was achieved in this additional step. The mixture was stirred for 2 hours, the polymer filtered and washed with depyrogenated water. The polymer displayed apparent inner surface area of 300 sq.m/g, total pore volume of 0.85 ml/g, and mean pore diameter of 35 nm.

C²